Appl. No. 09/900,076
Amdt. sent July 19, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 29, 2006

PATENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-3.   (Canceled)

4.   (Currently amended) A statement handling apparatus according to ~~claim 3~~claim 26 wherein the ~~control unit gives a highest priority of the predetermined priorities to an area having~~ bar code data includes bar codes with check digits.

5.   (Currently amended) A statement handling apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~claim 26 further comprising a data input unit, and wherein the control unit is further configured to display via the display unit an instruction to request data be input to the input unit and to compare the input data with data recognized from handwritten data, if the statement includes handwritten data ~~determines information from at least one of the areas by using data input from the data input unit and data from the area.~~

6-16.   (Canceled)

17.   (Currently amended) A method according to ~~claim 16~~claim 27 wherein the bar code includes bar codes with check digits~~:~~
~~the step of analyzing analyzes at least an area having bar codes with check digits,~~
~~and~~
~~the step of determining first uses the image data of an area having bar codes with~~
~~check digits~~.

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1   18.   (Currently amended) A method according to ~~claim 16~~claim 27 further

2 comprising ~~wherein, when there is one area that can be recognized in the recognized image data~~

3 ~~of the areas, the step of determine further comprises~~:

4   requesting data input; and

5   ~~correlating content of~~if the statement includes handwritten data, then comparing

6 the data input with data recognized from the handwritten data ~~to content of the analyzable area to~~

7 ~~thereby determine the content when the correlation results in coincidence~~.

       19-25. (Canceled)

1   26.   (New) A statement handling apparatus comprising:

2   a reading unit configured to read image data from a statement on which

3 information is formed thereon one or more of bar code data, OCR-recognizable characters, or

4 handwritten characters;

5   an identification unit configured to identify a statement type of the statement by

6 comparing the image data of the statement read by the reading unit with patterns of statement

7 data;

8   a recognition unit configured to recognize at least bar code data and the character

9 data contained in the image data depending on the statement type identified by the identification

10 unit;

11   a display unit configured to display recognized bar code data and recognized

12 character data; and

13   a control unit configured to verify recognized bar code data, wherein if the

14 recognized bar code data is verified then the control unit displays the recognized bar code data

15 via the display unit, wherein if the recognized bar code data is not verified then the control unit

16 verifies recognized character data, wherein if the recognized character data is verified then the

17 control unit displays the recognized character data via the display unit, wherein if the recognized

18 character data is not verified then handling of the statement ceases.

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1   27.   (New) A method for handling a statement on which information is formed

2 thereon one or more of bar code data, OCR-recognizable characters, or handwritten characters

3 comprising:

4   reading the image data on the statement to obtain image data;

5   comparing the image data of the statement with patterns of statement data to

6 determine a statement type of the statement;

7   recognizing bar code data and character data contained in the image data based on

8 the statement type to obtain recognized bar code data and recognized character data; and

9   verifying the recognized bar code data,

10   wherein if the recognized bar code data is verified then processing the statement

11 using the recognized bar code data, wherein if the recognized bar code data is not verified then

12 verifying the recognized character data,

13   wherein if the recognized character data is verified then processing the statement

14 using the recognized character data via the display unit, wherein if the recognized character data

15 is not verified then ceasing further processing of the statement.